

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-31077/89
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 594899

(54) Title
THIAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVES AS HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS

International Patent Classification(s)

(51)* C07D 417/12 A61K 031/34 A61K 031/38 A61K 031/40
A61K 031/42 A61K 031/44 A61K 031/54 C07D 417/14
A61K 031/425 A61K 031/495 A61K 031/505 A61K 031/535

(21) Application No. : 31077/89

(22) Application Date : 07.03.89

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number (32) Date (33) Country
8800745 08.03.88 US UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(43) Publication Date : 14.09.89

(44) Publication Date of Accepted Application : 15.03.90

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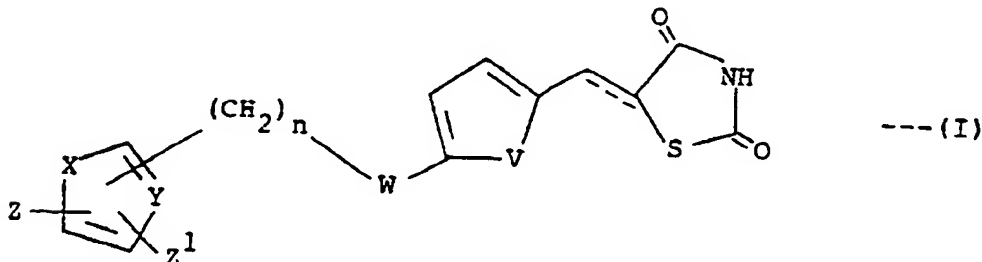
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(56) Prior Art Documents
AU 31078/79 C07D 417/10

(57) The present invention relates to certain compounds of the formula (I), depicted below, having utility as hypoglycemic and hypocholesterolemic agents, methods for their use and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

CLAIM

1. A compound of the formula



wherein the dotted line represents a bond or no bond;
V is -CH=CH-, -N=CH-, -CH=N-, S, O or NR;

W is S, SO, SO₂, SO₂NR¹, NR¹SO₂, CONR¹ or NR¹CO;

X is S, O, NR², -CH=N- or -N=CH;

Y is CH or N;

Z is hydrogen, (C₁-C₇)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl or phenyl mono- or disubstituted with the same or different groups which are (C₁-C₃)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₃)alkoxy, fluoro, chloro or bromo;

Z¹ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)alkyl;

R, R¹ and R² are each independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

a pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salt thereof; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof when the compound contains a basic nitrogen.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a hyperglycemic mammal which comprises a blood glucose lowering amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

APPLICATION ACCEPTED AND AMENDMENTS

ALLOWED 15-12-89

FORM 1

SPRUSON & FERGUSON

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

594899

PATENTS ACT 1952

APPLICATION FOR A STANDARD PATENT

31077/89

Pfizer Inc., of 235 East 42nd Street, New York, New York, 10017, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereby apply for the grant of a standard patent for an invention entitled:

Thiazolidinedione Derivatives as Hypoglycemic Agents

which is described in the accompanying complete specification.

Details of basic application(s):-

<u>Basic Applic. No:</u>	<u>Country:</u>	<u>Application Date:</u>
PCT/US88/00745	US	8 March 1988

The address for service is:-

Spruson & Ferguson
Patent Attorneys
Level 33 St Martins Tower
31 Market Street
Sydney New South Wales Australia

DATED this SIXTH day of MARCH 1989

Pfizer Inc.

By:

Registered Patent Attorney

TO: THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
OUR REF: 87040
S&F CODE: 60031

5845/2

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE PATENTS ACT 1952

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF A
CONVENTION APPLICATION FOR A PATENTIn support of the Convention Application made for a
patent for an invention entitled:AUSTRALIA
CONVENTION
STANDARD
& PETTY PATENT
DECLARATION

Title of Invention

THIAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVES AS HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS

Full name(s) and
address(es) of
Declarant(s)

I/We William Davis Huhn, Corporate Counsel

of PFIZER INC.
235 East 42nd Street
New York, New York, USA

do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

Full name(s) of
Applicant(s)~~XXXXXX We are the applicant(s) for the patent~~

(or, in the case of an application by a body corporate)

1. I am/We are authorised by PFIZER INC.

the applicant(s) for the patent to make this declaration on
its/their behalf.2. The basic application(s) as defined by Section 141 of the
Act was/were made

Basic Country(ies)

in The United States of America (PCT INTERNATIONAL PATENT
APPLICATION)

Priority Date(s)

on MARCH 8, 1988

Basic Applicant(s)

by DAVID ALAN CLARK, STEVEN WAYNE GOLDSTEIN, BERNARD HULIN (in the U.S.,
PFIZER INC. in all other designated countries)Full name(s) and
address(es) of
inventor(s)~~XXXXXX We are the actual inventor(s) of the invention referred
to in the basic application(s)~~

(or where a person other than the inventor is the applicant)

3. DAVID ALAN CLARK, STEVEN WAYNE GOLDSTEIN, BERNARD HULIN, respectively
of 16 Walnut Hill Road, East Lyme; 176 Bel-Aire Drive, Mystic; 47
Cedar Road, Clinton; all of State of Connecticut, United States of
America

(respectively)

is/are the actual inventor(s) of the invention and the facts upon
which the applicant(s) is/are entitled to make the application are
as follows:Set out how Applicant(s)
derives title from actual
inventor(s) e.g. The
Applicant(s) is/are the
assignee(s) of the
invention from the
inventor(s)The Applicant Company is the assignee of the said invention from the
actual inventors by virtue of assignment dated March 8, 19884. The basic application(s) referred to in paragraph 2 of this
Declaration was/were the first application(s) made in a Convention
country in respect of the invention(s) the subject of the application.

Groton,

Declared at Connecticut, this
USA8th day of February 1989
PFIZER INC.*William Davis Huhn*

WILLIAM DAVIS HUHN

CORPORATE COUNSEL

Signature of Declarant(s)

To: The Commissioner of Patents

594899

S & F Ref: 87040

FORM 10

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1952

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

(ORIGINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Class Int Class

Complete Specification Lodged:
Accepted:
Published:

Priority:

Related Art:

Name and Address
of Applicant:

Pfizer Inc.
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New York New York 10017
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Address for Service:

Spruson & Ferguson, Patent Attorneys
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Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

Complete Specification for the invention entitled:

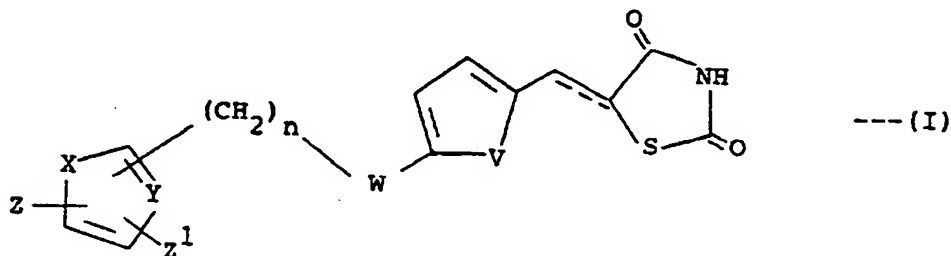
Thiazolidinedione Derivatives as Hypoglycemic Agents

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us

THIAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVES AS HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS

Abstract

Hypoglycemic thiazolidine-2,4-dione derivatives of
the formula



wherein the dotted line represents a bond or no bond;

V is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{N}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, S, O or NR;

W is S, SO, SO_2 , SO_2NR^1 , NR^1SO_2 , CONR^1 or NR^1CO ;

X is S, O, NR^2 , $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ or $-\text{N}=\text{CH}-$;

Y is CH or N;

Z is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl or phenyl mono- or disubstituted with the same or different groups which are (C_1-C_3) alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkoxy, fluoro, chloro or bromo;

Z^1 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) alkyl;

R, R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) ; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

a pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salt thereof; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt

thereof when the compound contains a basic nitrogen.

THIAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVES AS HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS

5 The present invention relates to certain compounds of the formula (I), depicted below, having utility as hypoglycemic and hypocholesterolemic agents, methods for their use and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

10 In spite of the early discovery of insulin and its subsequent wide-spread use in the treatment of diabetes, and the later discovery and use of sulfonylureas (e.g. chlorpropamide, tolbutamide, acetohexamide, tolazamide) and biguanides (e.g. phenformin) as oral hypoglycemic agents, the treatment
15 of diabetes remains less than satisfactory. The use of insulin, necessary in about 10% of diabetic patients in which synthetic hypoglycemic agents are not effective (Type I diabetes, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus), requires multiple daily doses, usually by self
20 injection. Determination of the proper dosage of insulin requires frequent estimations of the sugar in the urine or in the blood. The administration of an excess dose of insulin causes hypoglycemia, with effects ranging from mild abnormalities in blood
25 glucose or coma, or even death. Treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (Type II diabetes) usually consists of a combination of diet, exercise, oral agents, e.g., sulfonylureas, and in more severe cases, insulin. However, the clinically
30 available hypoglycemics are unfortunately fraught with other toxic manifestations which limit their use. In any event, where one of these agents may fail in an individual case, another may succeed. A continuing

need for hypoglycemic agents, which may be less toxic or succeed where others fail, is clearly evident.

Furthermore, atherosclerosis, a disease of the
5 arteries, is recognized to be the leading cause of
death in the United States and Western Europe. The
pathological sequence leading to atherosclerosis and
occlusive heart disease has been described in detail by
Ross and Glomset in New England Journal of Medicine
10 295, 369-377 (1976). The earliest stage in this
sequence is the formation of "fatty streaks" in the
carotid, coronary and cerebral arteries and in the
aorta. These lesions are yellow in color due to the
presence of lipid deposits found principally within
15 smooth-muscle cells and in macrophages of the intima
layer of the arteries and aorta. Cholesterol and
cholesteryl ester account for most of this lipid.
Further, it is postulated that most of the cholesterol
found within the fatty streaks results from uptake from
20 the plasma. These fatty streaks, in turn, give rise to
development of the "fibrous plaque", which consists of
accumulated intimal smooth muscle cells laden with
lipid and surrounded by extra cellular lipid, collagen,
elastin and proteoglycans. The cells plus matrix form
25 a fibrous cap that covers a deeper deposit of cell
debris and more extracellular lipid. The lipid is
primarily free and esterified cholesterol. The fibrous
plaque forms slowly, and is likely in time to become
calcified and necrotic, advancing to the "complicated
30 lesion" which accounts for the the arterial occlusion
and tendency toward mural thrombosis and arterial
muscular spasm that characterize advanced athero-
sclerosis.

Epidemiological evidence has firmly established hyperlipidemia as a primary risk factor in causing cardiovascular disease (CVD) due to atherosclerosis.

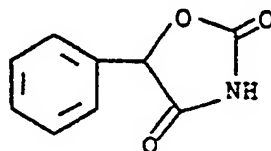
5 In recent years, leaders of the medical profession have placed renewed emphasis on lowering plasma cholesterol levels, and low density lipoprotein cholesterol in particular, as an essential step in prevention of CVD. The upper limits of "normal" are now known to be
10 significantly lower than heretofore appreciated. As a result, large segments of Western populations are now realized to be at high risk for development or progression of CVD because of this factor. Individuals who possess independent risk factors in addition to
15 hyperlipidemia are at particularly high risk. Such independent risk factors include glucose intolerance, left ventricular hypertrophy hypertension, and being of the male sex. Cardiovascular disease is especially prevalent among diabetic subjects, at least in part
20 because of the existence of multiple independent risk factors. Successful treatment of hyperlipidemia in the general population, and in diabetic subjects in particular, is therefore of exceptional medical importance.

25 The first step in recommended therapeutic regimens for hyperlipidemia is dietary intervention. While diet alone produces adequate response in some individuals, many others remain at high risk and must be treated further by pharmacological means. New drugs for the
30 treatment of hyperlipidemia are, therefore, of great potential benefit for large numbers of individuals at high risk of developing CVD. Further, successful treatment of both the hyperlipidemia and hyperglycemia

associated with the diabetic state with a single therapeutic agent is particularly desirable.

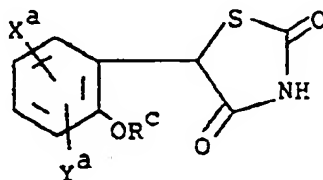
In addition to the hypoglycemic agents cited above, a variety of other compounds have been reported to possess this type of activity, as reviewed by Blank [Burger's Medicinal Chemistry, Fourth Edition, Part II, John Wiley and Sons, N.Y. (1979), pp. 1057-1080].

Schnur, U.S. Patent 4,367,234 discloses hypoglycemic oxazolidinediones of the formula



in which the phenyl ring is generally mono- or multi-substituted in the ortho/meta positions. Notably, with the exception of the 4-fluorophenyl analog, the para-substituted derivatives are either inactive or possess a low level of hypoglycemic activity. Schnur, U.S. Patents 4,332,952 and 4,342,771 further disclose a variety of similar oxazolidinedione hypoglycemic agents which are alternatively substituted at the 5-position with a heterocyclic group. These include certain furan, thiophene, pyrrole and pyridine derivatives.

Schnur, U.S. Patent 4,617,312 discloses hypoglycemic thiazolidinediones of the formula



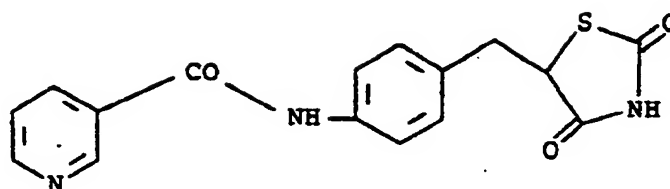
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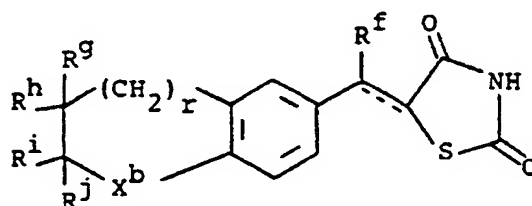
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Sohda et al. also describe the compound of the formula



as having weak hypoglycemic and plasma triglyceride lowering activity.

Eggler et al., U.S. Patent 4,703,052, discloses hypoglycemic thiazolidinediones of the formula

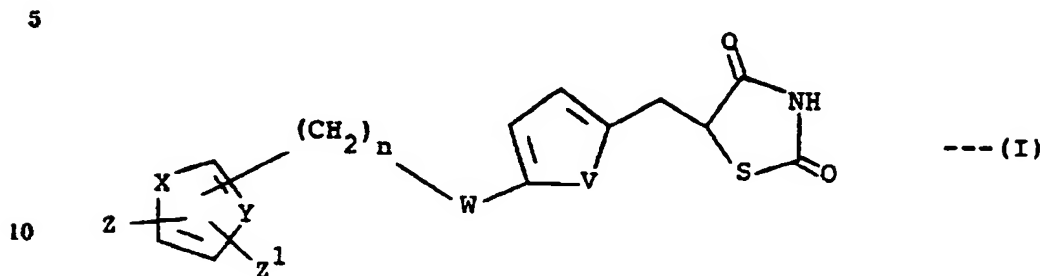


where the dotted line represents an optional bond, R^f is H, methyl or ethyl, X^b is O, S, SO, SO₂, CH₂, CO, CHOH or NR^k, R^k is H or an acyl group and the numerous definitions of R^g, R^h, Rⁱ and R^j include R^g, R^h and Rⁱ as hydrogen or methyl and R^j as optionally substituted phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl or styryl.

25

30

The present invention is directed to compounds having the formula



wherein the dotted line represents a bond or no bond;

V is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{N}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, S, O or NR;

W is S, SO, SO_2 , SO_2NR^1 , NR^1SO_2 , CONR^1 or NR^1CO ;

X is S, O, NR^2 , $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ or $-\text{N}=\text{CH}-$;

Y is CH or N;

Z is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl or phenyl mono- or disubstituted with the same or different groups which are (C_1-C_3) alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkoxy, fluoro, chloro or bromo;

Z^1 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) alkyl;

R, R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

the pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salts thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof when the compound contains a basic nitrogen.

Based upon their level of activity and ease of preparation, preferred compounds are those wherein the dotted line represents no bond, particularly those wherein V is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, n is 1 or 2, W is NR^1CO , CONR^1 , S or SO_2 ; and X is O and Y is N forming a 4-oxazolyl

group; most particularly when Z is 2-phenyl and Z¹ is 5-methyl.

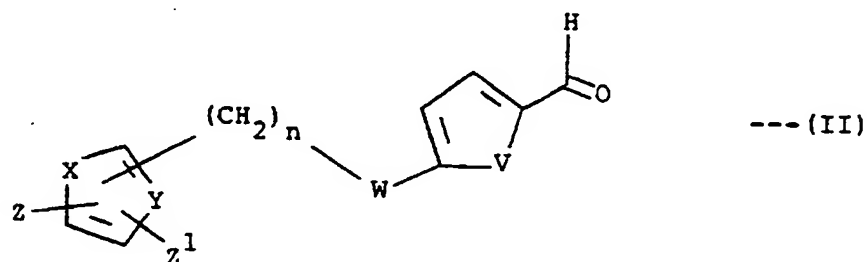
5 The expression "pharmaceutically-acceptable cationic salts" is intended to define but not limited to such salts as the alkali metal salts, (e.g. sodium and potassium), alkaline earth metal salts (e.g. calcium and magnesium), aluminum salts, ammonium salts, and salts with organic amines such as benzathine
10 (N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine), choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumine (N-methylglucamine), benethamine (N-benzylphenethylamine) diethylamine, piperazine, tromethamine (2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol) and procaine. An especially preferred
15 such salt is the sodium salt.

The expression "pharmaceutically-acceptable acid addition salts" is intended to define but not limited to such salts as the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen
20 phosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, acetate, succinate, citrate, methanesulfonate (mesylate) and p-toluene-sulfonate (tosylate) salts.

Also embraced by the present invention are pharmaceutical compositions for use in treating a
25 hyperglycemic mammal or a hypercholesterolemic mammal which comprises a blood glucose lowering amount or a blood cholesterol lowering amount of a compound of formula (I) and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier. The invention further comprises a method of lowering
30 blood glucose in a hyperglycemic mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a blood glucose lowering effective amount of a compound of formula (I); and a method of lowering blood cholesterol in a hypercholesterolemic mammal which comprises

administering to said mammal a blood cholesterol lowering amount of a compound of the formula (I).

The compounds of the formula (I) of the present invention are readily prepared. Most generally, the compounds of the formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents a bond are prepared by reaction of thiazolidine-2,4-dione with an aldehyde of the formula



wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, Z¹ and n are as defined above. In this step, the reactants are heated in the presence of an excess of a mild base to provide the olefin of formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents a bond. Usually a 10-50% molar excess of one of the two reactants is employed, in order to force the reaction to completion within a reasonable period of time. In the present instance, it is generally preferred to use the readily available thiazolidine-2,4-dione in excess. In a preferred method the aldehyde of the formula (II) and the thiazolidinedione are coupled in the presence of a catalytic amount of a secondary amine, preferably pyrrolidine or piperidine, usually about 0.05 to 0.20 molar equivalents, in a reaction-inert solvent such as a lower alkanol (e.g., methanol, ethanol, n-propanol,

isopropanol). Temperature is not especially critical, but will generally be above room temperature to effect reasonably rapid completion of the reaction, but below 100°C to minimize possible side reactions. Reflux temperature of the lower alkanol solvent is particularly convenient.

As used here and elsewhere herein, the expression "reaction inert solvent" refers to a solvent which does not interact with starting materials, reagents, intermediates or products in a manner which adversely affects the yield of the desired product.

In an alternative method the aldehyde of the formula (II) and thiazolidine-2,4-dione are intimately mixed with a molar excess, preferably a 2-4 fold molar excess, of anhydrous sodium acetate and the mixture is heated at a temperature high enough to effect melting, generally about 140-170° C., at which temperature the reaction is substantially complete in from about 30 to 60 minutes. The desired olefin of formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents a bond is then isolated, for example, by mixing with water and filtration, to obtain the crude product, which is purified, if desired, e.g., by crystallization or by standard chromatographic methods.

The resulting olefinic products are active hypoglycemic agents, but also serve as intermediates for preparation of the corresponding reduced compounds of formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents no bond. While the reduction of the above olefins may be carried out by employing a number of reducing agents which are known to reduce carbon-to-carbon double bonds, the preferred methods employ hydrogen in the

presence of a noble metal catalyst, sodium amalgam in methanol, or zinc in acetic acid.

When the reduction step is carried out employing hydrogen in the presence of a noble metal catalyst, a convenient method for carrying out this transformation is to stir or shake a solution of the olefinic compound of the formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents a bond in a reaction-inert solvent under an atmosphere of hydrogen, or hydrogen mixed with an inert diluent such as nitrogen, in the presence of a noble metal hydrogenation catalyst. Suitable solvents for this reaction are those which substantially dissolve the starting compound but which do not themselves suffer hydrogenation or hydrogenolysis. Examples of such solvents include ethers such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane and 1,2-dimethoxyethane; low molecular weight amides such as N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide and N-methylpyrrolidone; and lower alkyl carboxylic acids such as formic, acetic, propionic and isobutyric acid. Especially preferred such solvents are tetrahydrofuran and acetic acid. Hydrogenation is particularly preferred when W is other than S or SO.

Introduction of the hydrogen gas into the reaction medium is usually accomplished by carrying out the reaction in a sealed vessel, containing the olefinic compound, solvent, catalyst and hydrogen. The pressure inside the reaction vessel can vary from about 1 to about 100 kg/cm². The preferred pressure range, when the atmosphere inside the reaction vessel is substantially pure hydrogen, is from about 2 to about 5 kg/cm². The hydrogenation is generally run at a temperature of from about 0° to about 60° C., and

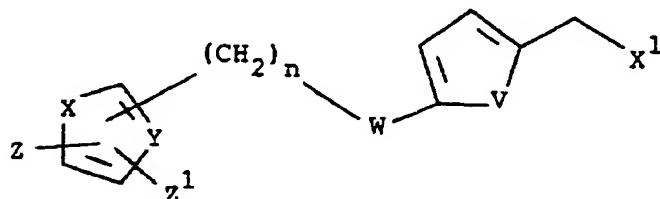
preferably from about 25° to about 50° C. Utilizing
the preferred temperature and pressure values,
hydrogenation generally takes place in a few hours,
e.g., from about 2 hours to about 20 hours. The
5 preferred noble metal catalysts used in this
hydrogenation reaction are the type of agents known in
the art for this kind of transformation, for example,
palladium, platinum and rhodium. A palladium catalyst
10 is preferred because such catalysts are not readily
poisoned by sulfur. The catalyst is usually present in
an amount from about 0.01 to about 25 weight-percent,
and preferably from about 0.1 to about 10
weight-percent, based on the olefinic compound. It is
15 often convenient to suspend the catalyst on an inert
support; a particularly convenient catalyst is
palladium suspended on an inert support such as carbon.

When the hydrogenation of the methylene double
bond is substantially complete, the desired product of
20 formula (I) wherein the dotted line is no bond is then
isolated by standard methods, e.g., the catalyst is
recovered by filtration, the solvent evaporated and the
product purified, if desired, by well known methods
such as crystallization or by chromatography.

25 An alternative method for reduction of the
olefinic compounds of the formula (I) wherein the
dotted line represents a bond is conventional sodium
amalgam reduction in methanol, usually at or about
ambient temperature; or zinc dust in acetic acid,
30 usually at elevated temperature, conveniently at the
reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. Both of
these methods, which are preferred when W is S, are
exemplified below.

Those compounds wherein W is SO or SO₂ are alternatively (and preferably when W is SO) formed by suitable oxidation of the corresponding compounds where W is S. When the sulfoxide is desired, the sulfide is preferably oxidized with at least one molar equivalent (usually a 2-3 fold molar excess) of sodium periodate in a reaction inert solvent such as aqueous methanol, generally at room temperature or below so as to avoid over oxidation. Alternatively, close to one molar equivalent of m-chloroperbenzoic acid can be used for this purpose, in a reaction-inert solvent such as methylene chloride or toluene, generally at reduced temperature such as -10 to 10°C. When the sulfone is desired, a convenient oxidant is at least two molar equivalents of said m-chloroperbenzoic acid, otherwise in the same solvents and under the same mild conditions specified in the preceding sentence. However, a less expensive oxidant for formation of the sulfone is H₂O₂, generally used in excess in a reaction inert solvent such as acetic acid.

When a saturated compound of the formula (I) wherein the dotted line represents no bond is desired, an alternative synthetic route is to react thiazolidine-2,4-dione with a compound of the formula



wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, Z¹ and n are as defined above,
and X¹ is a nucleophilic leaving group such as
chloride, bromide, iodide or mesylate. These reactants
5 are generally used in substantially equimolar
quantities, although 10-25% excess of readily available
thiazolidine-2,4-dione is preferred in order to force
the reaction to completion within a reasonable period
of time. The reaction is carried out in the presence
10 of reaction-inert solvent, such as tetrahydrofuran,
with the thiazolidine-2,4-dione prereacted with two
molar equivalents of a strong base such as butyl
lithium in order to preform the dianion. Salt
formation is generally carried out at reduced
15 temperature (e.g. -50 to -80° C.); the reactants mixed
at an intermediate temperature, and reaction carried to
completion at an elevated temperature (e.g. the reflux
temperature of the reaction mixture). It will be
evident to those skilled in the art that this method
20 will be preferred only when there are no other reactive
groups (e.g., NH) present in the compound of the
formula (III). Thus, when V is NH, this group will
generally be in protected form, e.g., as an N-benzyl
group which is subsequently removed by conventional
25 hydrogenolysis conditions such as those described
above.

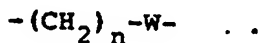
The pharmaceutically-acceptable cationic salts of
the compounds of the present invention are readily
prepared by reacting the acid forms with an appropriate
30 base, usually one equivalent, in a co-solvent. Typical
bases are sodium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, sodium
ethoxide, sodium hydride, potassium methoxide,
magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, benzathine,
choline, diethanolamine, piperazine and tromethamine.

The salt is isolated by concentration to dryness or by addition of a non-solvent. In many cases, salts are preferably prepared by mixing a solution of the acid with a solution of a different salt of the cation (sodium or potassium ethylhexanoate, magnesium oleate), employing a solvent (e.g., ethyl acetate) from which the desired cationic salt precipitates, or can be otherwise isolated by concentration and/or addition of a non-solvent.

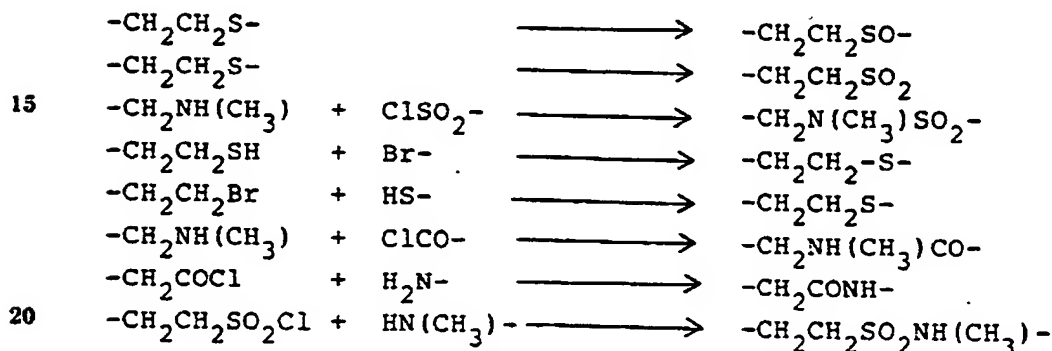
The acid addition salts of the compounds of the present invention are readily prepared by reacting the base forms with the appropriate acid. When the salt is of a monobasic acid (e.g., the hydrochloride, the hydrobromide, the p-toluenesulfonate, the acetate), the hydrogen form of a dibasic acid (e.g., the hydrogen sulfate, the succinate) or the dihydrogen form of a tribasic acid (e.g., the dihydrogen phosphate, the citrate), at least one molar equivalent and usually a molar excess of the acid is employed. However when such salts as the sulfate, the hemisuccinate, the hydrogen phosphate or the phosphate are desired, the appropriate and exact chemical equivalents of acid will generally be used. The free base and the acid are usually combined in a co-solvent from which the desired salt precipitates, or can be otherwise isolated by concentration and/or addition of a non-solvent.

Thiazolidine-2,4-dione is commercially available. The aldehydes of formula (II) are prepared by a variety of conventional methods; for example, by mild oxidation of the corresponding primary alcohol with reagents such as manganese dioxide under conditions known to produce aldehydes from primary alcohols; reaction of the corresponding aralkyl bromides with n-butyl lithium

5 followed by N,N-dimethylformamide at -80° to -70°C , reaction of a suitably 4-substituted benzaldehyde (or corresponding thiophene or pyridine analog) with a suitably substituted heterocyclic derivate so as to form the bridging group:



10 For example, with the aldehyde group optionally in protected form or in the form of an aldehyde precursor.



25 The halides/mesylates of the formula (III) are also available by conventional methods, such as by the action of a suitable reagent (e.g., PBr_3 , $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ on the corresponding alcohol), halogenation of a corresponding methyl derivative, and so forth.

30 It will be further evident to those skilled in the art that the synthesis of a compound of the formula (I) can be varied by the coupling of a precursor aldehyde (or mesylate/halide) with thiazolidine-2,4-dione, with completion of the side chain as a later step by one of the synthetic methods for aldehydes of the formula (II) which are illustrated above.

5 The present compounds of the formula (I) are readily adapted to clinical use as hypoglycemic or hypocholesterolemic agents. The activity required for the former clinical use is defined by the test for hypoglycemic effect in ob/ob mice by the following procedure:

10 Five to eight week old C57 BL/6J-ob/ob mice (obtained from Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine) were housed five per cage under standard animal care practices. After a one week acclimation period, the animals were weighed and 25 microliters of blood was collected via an ocular bleed prior to any treatment. The blood sample was immediately diluted 1:5 with
15 saline containing 2.5 mg/ml sodium fluoride and 2% sodium heparin, and held on ice for metabolite analysis. Animals were then dosed daily for five days with drug (5-50 mg/kg), a positive control (50 mg/kg) of ciglitazone; U.S. Patent 4,467,902; Sohda et al., Chem. Pharm. Bull., vol. 32, pp. 4460-4465, 1984), or
20 vehicle. All drugs were administered in a vehicle consisting of 0.25% w/v methyl cellulose. On day 5, the animals were weighed again and bled (via the ocular route) for blood metabolite levels. The freshly
25 collected samples were centrifuged for two minutes at 10,000 xg at room temperature. The supernatant was analyzed for glucose, for example, by the ABA 200 Bichromatic Analyzer™, using the A-gent™ glucose UV reagent system* (hexokinase method) using 20, 60 and
30 100 mg/dl standards. Plasma glucose was then calculated by the equation,
Plasma glucose (mg/dl) = Sample value x 5 x 1.67 =
8.35 x Sample value

where 5 is the dilution factor and 1.67 is the plasma hematocrit adjustment (assuming the hematocrit is 40%).

5 "A registered trademark of Abbott Laboratories, Diagnostics Division, 820 Mission Street, So. Pasadena, CA 91030.

*A modification of the method of Richterich and Dauwalder, Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift, 101, 860 (1971).

10 The animals dosed with vehicle maintain substantially unchanged hyperglycemic glucose levels (e.g., 250 mg/dl), while positive control animals have depressed glucose levels (e.g., 130 mg/dl). Test compounds are reported in terms of % glucose
15 normalization. For example, a glucose level which is the same as the positive control is reported as 100%.

Studies such as that described below demonstrate that the compounds of formula (I) effect the lowering of serum cholesterol levels in mammals.

20 Female mice (strain C57Br/cd J), obtained from Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, Maine, are used at age 8-12 weeks, following 2-4 weeks acclimation having free access to water and standard laboratory chow. Animals are divided randomly into three groups of 6-7
25 animals. All three groups are placed on a diet containing 0.75% cholesterol, 31% sucrose, 15.5% starch, 20% casein, 17% cellulose, 4.5% corn oil, 5% coconut oil, 0.25% cholic acid, 4% salts and 2% vitamin; permitted to feed ad lib for 18 days; and
30 dosed daily at 9-11 a.m. for the final 5 days by oral gavage, the control group with 5 ml/kg of vehicle (0.1% aqueous methyl cellulose) and the test groups with the compound under study at a dose range of 0.1-20 mg/kg/day in vehicle. After the fourth day of dosing,

the animals are fasted overnight, starting at 5 p.m. The following morning a fifth and final dose of the compound is administered to the test groups and, three
5 hours later, the animals are sacrificed by decapitation. Blood from the body trunk is collected and allowed to clot, and the serum assayed enzymatically, using an Abbott VP automated analyzer, for HDL cholesterol, LDL and VLDL cholesterol, and total
10 cholesterol. Whether judged on the basis LDL + VLDL cholesterol levels, total cholesterol levels or the ratio of LDL + VLDL/HDL, the compounds of this invention generally show favorable result in lowering cholesterol levels.

15 The present compounds of the formula (I) are clinically administered to mammals, including man, via either the oral or the parenteral route. Administration by the oral route is preferred, being more convenient and avoiding the possible pain and
20 irritation of injection. However, in circumstances where the patient cannot swallow the medication, or absorption following oral administration is impaired, as by disease or other abnormality, it is essential that the drug be administered parenterally. By either
25 route, the dosage is in the range of about 0.10 to about 50 mg/kg body weight of the subject per day, preferably about 0.10 to about 10 mg/kg body weight per day administered singly or as a divided dose. However, the optimum dosage for the individual subject being
30 treated will be determined by the person responsible for treatment, generally smaller doses being administered initially and thereafter increments made to determine the most suitable dosage. This will vary

according to the particular compound employed and with the subject being treated.

The compounds can be used in pharmaceutical preparations containing the compound, or pharmaceutically acceptable acid salt thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier or diluent. Suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers include inert solid fillers or diluents and sterile aqueous or organic solutions. The active compound will be present in such pharmaceutical compositions in amounts sufficient to provide the desired dosage amount in the range described above. Thus, for oral administration the compounds can be combined with a suitable solid or liquid carrier or diluent to form capsules, tablets, powders, syrups, solutions, suspensions and the like. The pharmaceutical compositions may, if desired, contain additional components such as flavorants, sweeteners, excipients and the like. For parenteral administration the compounds can be combined with sterile aqueous or organic media to form injectable solutions or suspensions. For example, solutions in sesame or peanut oil, aqueous propylene glycol and the like can be used, as well as aqueous solutions of water-soluble pharmaceutically-acceptable salts of the compounds. The injectable solutions prepared in this manner can then be administered intravenously, intraperitoneally, subcutaneously, or intramuscularly, with intramuscular administration being the preferred parenteral route in man.

The present invention is illustrated by the following Examples. However, it should be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific details of these examples. Nomenclature used herein is based on Rigaudy and Klesney, IUPAC Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry, 1979 Ed., Pergammon Press, New York, 1979. The abbreviations THF, DMF and DMSO refer to tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide respectively.

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EXAMPLE 1

N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-4-
[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzene-
sulfonamide

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4-[(Thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzene-
sulfonyl chloride (1.62 g, 5.31 mmol) in 25 mL of
CH₂Cl₂ was cooled to 0°C. N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-
oxazolyl)methyl]amine (1.0 g, 5.31 mmol) in 10 mL of
10 CH₂Cl₂ was added dropwise, followed by diisopropyl-
ethylamine (1.1 mL, 6.37 mmol) and the mixture stirred
at 0°C for 20 minutes, then at room temperature for 18
hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL
CH₂Cl₂, washed 3 x 25 mL 1N HCl, 1 x 25 mL 5% NaHCO₃
15 and 2 x 25 mL brine, dried (MgSO₄) and stripped to
1.9 g of solids. The latter was flash chromatographed
on silica gel using 3:40 ethyl acetate:hexane as eluant
to yield 0.34 g of purified, present title product, mp
120-122°C.

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By the same method, N-ethyl-N-[(5-methyl-2-phenyl-
4-oxazolyl)methyl]amine (107 mg, 0.5 mmol) and
4-[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzoyl chloride
(133 mg, 1.0 mmol) were converted to N-ethyl-N-[(5-
methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-4-[(thiazolidine-
25 2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzamide purified by trituration
with CHCl₃ and hexane, 110 mg, mp 77-79°C.

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EXAMPLE 2

N-Methyl-N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)-
methyl]-4-[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)-
methyl]benzenesulfonamide

5 Using 1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃ as eluant, otherwise by the
method of the preceding Example, N-methyl-N-[(5-methyl-
2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]amine (0.39 g, 1.93 mmol)
was converted to present chromatographed title product
170 mg; tlc Rf 0.35 (1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃). The latter
10 (150 mg, 0.954 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of methanol
and NaOCH₃ (51.6 mg, 0.954 mmol) added. After stirring
for 15 minutes, the solution was stripped to yield the
sodium salt of present title product; mp 250°C (dec).

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EXAMPLE 3

N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-4-
[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-ylidene)methyl]benzamide

5 4-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methylamino-
carbonyl]benzaldehyde (0.880 g, 2.75 mmol),
thiazolidine-2,4-dione (0.483 g, 4.12 mmol) and sodium
acetate (0.676 g, 8.24 mmol) were intimately mixed and
10 heated at 140-145°C for 45 minutes, then cooled to room
temperature, the solids triturated and stirred with
50 mL of water for 30 minutes and 1.20 g of present
title product recovered by filtration; mp 235-237°C
(dec); tlc Rf 0.2 (3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

EXAMPLE 4

15 N-Methyl-N-[(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)-
methyl]-4-[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-ylidene)-
methyl]benzamide

By the method of the preceding Example, except to
use a heating time of 2 hours, 4-[N-[(5-methyl-2-
20 phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]methylaminocarbonyl]
benzaldehyde (0.520 g, 1.56 mmol) was converted to
0.61 g of present title product; mp 95-98°C; tlc Rf 0.2
(3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

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EXAMPLE 5

N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-4-
[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzamide

5 Title product of Example 3 (0.60 g, 1.43 mmol) in
a mixture of 70 mL of THF and 50 mL of acetic acid was
hydrogenated over 1.0 g of 10% Pd/C sulfur resistant
catalyst in a Paar shaker at 50 psig and room
10 filtration over diatomaceous earth with THF wash. The
filtrate and wash liquor were combined, stripped to a
gummy solid, taken up in CHCl_3 and sufficient CCl_4
added to precipitate 0.35 g of present title product;
mp 49-53°C; tlc Rf 0.7 (3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

EXAMPLE 6

N-Methyl-N-[(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-
4-[(thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-yl)methyl]benzamide.

15 Title product of Example 4 (0.30 g, 0.69 mmol) in
80 mL THF and 25 mL acetic acid was hydrogenated over
20 0.80 g of 10% Pd/C sulfur resistant catalyst in a Paar
shaker at 50 psig and room temperature for 2 hours.
Catalyst and crude product were recovered as in the
preceding Example. The crude product was flash
chromatographed on silica gel using 3:1 ethyl
25 acetate:hexane as eluant to yield 81 mg of present
title product; mp 75-78°C; tlc Rf 0.45 (3:1 ethyl
acetate:hexane).

EXAMPLE 7

5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetamido]-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetic acid
(0.40 g, 1.8 mmol) dissolved in 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was
cooled to 0-5°C. Triethylamine (0.46 mL) and then
ethyl chloroformate (0.30 mL) were each added dropwise.
After stirring at 15 minutes at 0°C to assure complete
10 conversion of the acid to the intermediate mixed
anhydride, a solution of 5-(4-aminobenzyl)thiazolidine-
2,4-dione (0.71 g, 3.2 mmol; Chem. Pharm. Bull. Japan,
v. 30, p. 3580, 1982) and 0.24 mL triethylamine in
15 15 mL were added dropwise as the temperature was
maintained at 0-5°C. The resulting solution was then
stirred for 18 hours at room temperature, stripped of
solvent and the residue distributed between 25 mL 2N
HCl and 25 mL ethyl acetate. The aqueous layer was
20 extracted with 25 mL additional ethyl acetate, and the
organic layers combined, washed sequentially 1 x 30 mL
water, 1 x 30 mL saturated NaHCO_3 and 1 x 30 mL satu-
rated NaCl, dried (Na_2SO_4) and stripped to yield 0.84 g
of solids. The latter was flash chromatographed on
silica gel using 1:2 ethyl acetate:hexane as eluant to
25 yield 0.23 g of impure title product suitable for
rechromatography and 0.20 g of purified title product.

By the same method, the corresponding N-methyl
benzylamine derivative (210 mg, 0.88 mmol) was
converted to the N-methyl derivative of title product,
30 purified by chromatography on silica gel using ethyl
acetate as eluant, 160 mg, tlc Rf 0.35 (ethyl acetate).

Also by the same method, the corresponding N-ethyl
benzylamine derivative (1.0 g, 4.0 mmol) was converted

to the N-ethyl derivative of title product, purified by chromatography using 2:3 ethyl acetate:hexane as eluant, 420 mg, tlc Rt 0.45 (ethyl acetate).

EXAMPLE 8

5 5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethylthio]-phenylmethylene]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

Using a temperature of 170°C and a heating time of 0.5 hour, the method of Example 3 was used to convert
10 4-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethylthio]benzaldehyde (0.235 g, 0.73 mmol) to 0.15 g of present title product; tlc Rf 0.26 (1:39 CH₃OH:CH₂Cl₂).

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EXAMPLE 9

5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethylthio]-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

- 5 1% Na/Hg (2.60 g) and the title product of the preceding Example (0.15 g) were combined in 15 mL of CH₃OH, stirred 4 hours at room temperature and decanted. The decant was stripped, the residue taken up in 25 mL of water, acidified to pH 2 with 2N HCl and
10 extracted 3 x 20 mL CH₂Cl₂. The organic layers were combined, dried (K₂CO₃) and stripped to an 81 mg residue which was plug filtered on silica gel using 1:39 CH₃OH:CH₂Cl₂ as eluant to yield 58 mg of present title product; tlc Rf 0.46 (1:39 CH₃OH:CH₂Cl₂), 0.6
15 (1:20 CH₃OH:CH₂Cl₂).

EXAMPLE 10

5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethyl-sulfonyl]benzyl]oxazolidine-2,4-dione

- 20 Title product of the preceding Example (53 mg, 0.125 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and cooled to 0°C. *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (58 mg, 0.275 mmol) was added portionwise over 0.5 hour at 0°C. The mixture was then stirred 2 hours at room temperature, diluted with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, washed with 10 mL 5% NaHCO₃
25 and 10 mL brine, dried (MgSO₄) and stripped to yield 27 mg of title product as a white foam; tlc Rf 0.50 (1:19 CH₃OH:CH₂Cl₂).

EXAMPLE 11

5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethyl-sulfinyl]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 Title product of Example 9 (5.8 mmol) is dissolved in methanol (125 mL) and added to sodium periodate (17.4 mmol, 3.7 g) dissolved in water (40 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture is stirred for 1 hour and then concentrated to 50 mL. Water (150 mL) is
10 added and the solution is extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 125 mL). The organic layers are washed with water (50 mL), saturated NaCl (50 mL), dried (NaSO₄) and solvent removed in vacuo to yield present title product.

EXAMPLE 12

Sodium Salt of 5-[4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethylthio]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

15 Title product of Example 9 (6.9 mmol) is dissolved, with warming as necessary, in 75 mL of ethyl acetate. Sodium 2-ethylhexanoate (6.9 mmol, 1.1 g) in
20 10 mL ethyl acetate is added. After standing overnight, present title product is recovered by filtration.

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EXAMPLE 13

5-[4-[N-Methyl-2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)-
acetamido]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 -(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetic acid
(0.195 g, 0.90 mmol) and SOCl_2 (0.109 g, 0.90 mmol)
were combined in 0.67 mL of benzene and heated near
reflux for 20 minutes to form a clear solution of the
corresponding acid chloride. The mixture was cooled,
stripped of solvent, and twice restripped from 10 mL
10 portions of CCl_4 . The resulting solid residue was
slurred in 3 mL benzene and added portionwise to a
solution of 5-[4-(methylamino)benzyl]thiazolidine-
2,4-dione (0.21 g, 0.88 mmol) in 1.5 mL of pyridine
15 maintained at 0-5°C. The mixture was stirred 18 hours
at room temperature, diluted with 40 mL of water,
acidified with 6N HCl and extracted 2 x 40 mL ethyl
acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed in
sequence 1 x 20 mL 1N, 2 x 30 mL H_2O and 1 x 30 mL
20 saturated NaCl, dried (Na_2SO_4), stripped to 0.355 g of
a gum. The latter wash flash chromatographed on silica
gel using ethyl acetate as eluant to yield 0.160 g of
present title product as a solid; tlc Rf 0.35 (ethyl
acetate).

PREPARATION 1

Ethyl 2-(Hydroxyimino)-3-oxobutyrate

Under N_2 , a solution of ethyl acetoacetate
(286 mL, 292 g, 2.24 mol) dissolved in 300 mL of acetic
acid was cooled to $-10^\circ C$. Maintaining that temper-
ature, $NaNO_2$ (80 g, 2.61 mol) in 400 mL of water was
slowly added, and the mixture then stirred 30 minutes
at $0^\circ C$, at which time KCl (160 g, 2.15 mol) in 800 mL
of water was added over 20 minutes, the mixture stirred
for an additional 30 minutes at $0^\circ C$, and then extracted
3 x 1L ether. The organic layers were combined, washed
2 x 1L water and 1 x 1L brine, dried ($MgSO_4$) and
stripped to yield 343.3 g (96%) of title product as an
oil; tlc Rf 0.3 (1:19 $CH_3OH:CHCl_3$).

PREPARATION 2

Ethyl 5-Methyl-2-phenyloxazole-4-carboxylate-
1-oxide Hydrochloride

Title product of the preceding Preparation (343 g,
2.16 mol) was dissolved in 550 mL of acetic acid.
Benzaldehyde (285 mL, 297.5 g, 2.81 mol) was then
added, the mixture cooled to $0^\circ C$, and dry HCl bubbled
into the stirred reaction mixture at a moderate rate
for 2 hours at $0^\circ C$. The mixture was diluted with 3
volumes of ether and filtered to yield 620 g (558 g,
90% on a dry basis) of ether wet title product, which
was immediately bottled and stored at refrigerator
temperature; tlc Rf 0.45 (1:19 $CH_3OH:CHCl_3$).

PREPARATION 3

Ethyl 5-Methyl-2-phenyloxazole-4-carboxylate

Title product of the preceding Preparation (205 g,
5 dry basis, 0.723 mol) was dissolved in 1L of ethanol
and 120 mL of methanol and hydrogenated in a Paar
shaker over 14 g of 10% Pd/C at 50 psig and room
temperature for 3 hours, by which time uptake of
hydrogen was complete. Catalyst was recovered by
10 filtration over diatomaceous earth with methanol wash.
The filtrate and wash liquors were combined and
stripped to yield present title product as an oil; tlc
Rf 0.7 (1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃).

PREPARATION 4

5-Methyl-2-phenyloxazole-4-methanol

15 Under N₂, LiAlH₄ (11.1 g, 0.293 mol) was slurried
in 300 mL ether and cooled to 0°C. A clarified
solution of the title product of the preceding
Preparation (67.0 g, 0.29 mol) in 300 mL of ether was
20 added to the hydride slurry over 30 minutes,
maintaining the temperature at 0-10°C. The reaction
mixture was stirred 1 hour at room temperature, then
diluted with 200 mL THF, slowly quenched with 11.1 mL
water (vigorous gas evolution), then with 1N NaOH
25 (11.1 mL) and finally with 33 mL additional water. The
mixture was stirred 15 minutes, diluted with 200 mL
additional THF, filtered and the filtrate stripped to
yield 46 g (84%) of present title product as a solid;
tlc Rf 0.4 (1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃).

PREPARATION 5

5-Methyl-2-phenyloxazole-4-carbaldehyde

5 Pyridinium dichromate (C_6H_5N)₂·H₂Cr₂O₇, 120.8 g, 0.324 mol) was added to a solution of the title product of the preceding Preparation (20.4 g, 0.106 mol) in 500 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and the slurry stirred for 7 hours, diluted with 1L of ether, filtered over diatomaceous earth, and the filtrate stripped to yield 14.1 g (70%) of present title product; tlc Rf 0.75 (3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 6

(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl Azide

15 Under N₂, to a stirred solution of the title product of Preparation 4 (10.0 g, 0.053 mol) was added in sequence triphenylphosphine (18.0 g, 0.069 mol), NaN₃ (10.3 g, 0.159 mol) and CCl₄ (15.3 mL, 0.159 mol). The mixture, which was initially mildly exothermic, was stirred for 1 hour, then poured into 400 mL of water and extracted 2 x 300 mL ether. The organic layers were combined, extracted 2 x 300 mL water and 1 x 300 mL brine, dried (MgSO₄), stripped, and the sticky solid residue flash chromatographed on silica gel using 4:1 hexane:ethyl acetate as eluant to yield 7.77 g (68%) of present title product as an oil which crystallized on standing; tlc Rf 0.8 (1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃).

PREPARATION 7

N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]amine

5 Under N₂, a stirred slurry of LiAlH₄ (0.96 g,
0.025 mol) in 75 mL of ether was cooled to -5°C, title
product of the preceding Preparation (3.05 g, 0.014
mol) in 40 mL of ether was added over 15 minutes. The
mixture was allowed to warm, then heated at reflux for
3 hours, cooled to 0°C, and diluted with 3 mL saturated
10 Na₂SO₄. The resulting slurry was filtered with ether
and THF wash. The filtrate and wash liquors were
combined, dried (MgSO₄) and stripped to yield 2.2 g
(82%) of present title product as an oil; tlc Rf 0.0
(1:19 CH₃OH:CHCl₃).

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PREPARATION 8

N-Methyl-N-[(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]amine

Title product of Preparation 5 (2.0 g, 10.7 mmol)
5 was combined with MgSO_4 (2 g) in 50 mL ether, cooled to
0°C and the mixture saturated with gaseous methylamine.
The mixture was stirred 15 minutes at 0°C, then at room
temperature for 3 hours, filtered over diatomaceous
10 earth with ether wash, and the combined filtrate and
wash liquors stripped to yield intermediate imine as an
oil. All of this oil was taken up in 50 mL CH_3OH and
cooled to 0°C. NaBH_4 (2.2 g, 0.058 mmol) was added and
the mixture stirred at 0°C for 15 minutes, then at room
15 temperature for 18 hours. The mixture was diluted with
2 volumes of water and extracted 2 x 150 mL ethyl
acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed 2 x
150 mL water and 1 x 150 mL brine, and stripped to
yield 1.54 g (46%) of present title product as an oil;
20 tlc Rf 0.0 (1:19 $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{CHCl}_3$).

PREPARATION 9

5-(Phenylmethylene)thiazolidine-2,4-dione

Benzaldehyde (0.78 mol, 82.8 g) and 2,4-
thiazolidinedione (0.85 mol, 100 g) were heated to
reflux in a mixture of pyridine (215 mL) and di-
25 methylformamide (400 ml) for 18 hours. The reaction
mixture was cooled to 55°C, diluted with hexane
(360 mL) and water (900 mL), and stirred for 1 hour
after cooling to room temperature. The product was
collected to afford 175 g of title product as a pale
30 yellow solid; mp 246-248°C.

PREPARATION 10

5-(Benzyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 The title product of the preceding Preparation
(0.12 mol, 25 g) was hydrogenated in a Paar shaker at
50 psig for 18 hours at room temperature using 10% Pd/C
(25 g of 50 wt% H₂O) in tetrahydrofuran (750 mL) and
acetic acid (250 mL). The catalyst was removed by
filtration and the solvent removed in vacuo. The crude
10 solid was recrystallized from ethanol:water (1:2) to
afford 15.4 of pale grey crystals; mp 101-103°C.

Analysis calculated for C₁₀H₉O₂NS:

C, 57.95; H, 4.38; N, 6.76%.

Found: C, 57.95; H, 4.30; N, 6.76%.

PREPARATION 11

4-[(Thiazolidine-2,4-dione-5-yl)methyl]-
benzenesulfonyl Chloride

Chlorosulfonic acid (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C and
the 5-benzyl-2,4-thiazolidinedione prepared above
20 (9.6 mmol, 2.0 g) was added portionwise. The reaction
mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 hour
and poured into ice (25 g). The solution was extracted
with methylene chloride (2 x 50 mL), the organic layers
were combined and dried (Na₂SO₄), and solvent removed
25 in vacuo to afford title product which was used without
further purification.

PREPARATION 12

4-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl-
aminocarbonyl]benzaldehyde

30 Under N₂, 4-carboxybenzaldehyde (0.934 g, 6.22
mmol), 30 mL THF and triethylamine (0.87 mL, 6.24 mmol)
were combined and the resulting solution cooled to 0°C.
Isobutylchloroformate (0.81 mL, 6.24 mmol) was added,
forming a white milky slurry which was stirred 30

minutes at 0°C to fully form the mixed anhydride.

Title product of Preparation 7 (1.17 g, 6.22 mmol) in 15 mL THF was added dropwise to over 5 minutes and

5 stirring continued for 30 minutes at 0°C and then at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with an equal volume of water and then with an equal volume of 1N NaOH, and extracted 2 x 125 mL ethyl acetate. The organic layers were
10 combined, washed 2 x 125 mL water and 2 x 125 mL brine, dried (MgSO₄), stripped to an oil (2.01 g) and flash chromatographed on silica gel using 3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane as eluant to yield 1.10 g of purified title product in the form of yellow crystals; tlc Rf
15 0.55 (3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 13

4-[N-[(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-methylaminocarbonyl]benzaldehyde

By the method of the preceding Preparation, the
20 title product of Preparation 8 (1.5 g, 7.42 mmol) was converted to 0.52 g present chromatographed title product, tlc Rf 0.4 (3:1 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 14

Methyl 2-(Benzoylamino)-3-oxobutyrate

25 L-Aspartic acid beta-methyl ester hydrochloride (5.0 g, 0.027 mol) was partially dissolved in 15 mL of pyridine by stirring for 15 minutes at room temperature, and the mixture cooled to 0°C. With vigorous stirring, benzoyl chloride (3.1 mL, 3.8 g, 0.027 mol)
30 was then added dropwise, and stirring continued for 1.5 hours at 0°C and 0.5 hour at room temperature to yield a solution of intermediate N-benzoyl L-aspartic acid beta-methyl ester. Acetic anhydride (10 mL) was added and the mixture heated at

90°C for 2 hours, then diluted with 15 mL of water and heating continued for 15 minutes. The mixture was cooled, acidified with excess dilute HCl and extracted 2 x 75 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed in sequence with 1 x 50 mL 2N HCl, 1 x 50 mL water, 3 x 50 mL saturated NaHCO₃, 1 x 50 mL water and 1 x 50 mL saturated NaCl, dried over Na₂SO₄ and stripped to yield 4.3 g of present title product as a thick oil; tlc Rf 0.75 (9:1 CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH), 0.25 (49:1 CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH), 0.15 (1:2 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 15

Methyl 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate

Phosphorus oxychloride (20 mL) was added to a solution of title product of the preceding Preparation in 80 mL of toluene and the mixture heated at reflux for 4 hours, cooled to room temperature, poured into 200 mL of ice and water, adjusted to pH 7.5 with solid K₂CO₃ and extracted 2 x 100 mL ether. The organic layers were combined, washed 1 x 100 mL water and 1 x 100 mL saturated NaCl, stripped to 2.4 g of an oil, and the latter flash chromatographed on silica gel with 1:2 ethyl acetate:hexane as eluant to yield 1.1 g of purified, present title product as an oil; tlc Rf 0.4 (1:2 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 16

2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetic Acid

Title product of the preceding Preparation (1.1 g, 4.8 mmol) was slurried in 15 mL of 1N NaOH and heated at gentle reflux for 0.5 hour. The resulting solution was cooled to 0-5°C and acidified with excess 6N HCl to precipitate 0.82 g of present title product; tlc Rf 0.05 (1:1 ethyl acetate:hexane), 0.2 (1:2 ethyl acetate:hexane).

PREPARATION 17

2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethyl Bromide

5 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol (0.203 g,
1.0 mmol; European patent application 177353) and CBr_4
(0.662 g, 2.0 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL of ether
and cooled to 0°C. Triphenylphosphine (0.524 g, 2.0
mmol) was added and the mixture stirred for 3 hours at
room temperature. The mixture was filtered, the
10 filtrate was stripped of solvent and the residue
filtered through a plug of silica gel using CHCl_3 as
eluant to yield 0.16 g of present title product as a
white solid; mp 59-61°C; tlc Rf 0.22 (CHCl_3).

PREPARATION 18

15 4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)-
ethylthio]phenyl Bromide

NaH (46 mg, 1.92 mmol) was added to 8 mL THF at
0°C and stirred for 5 minutes. 4-Bromothiophenol
(278 mg, 1.47 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred
20 for 15 minutes at 0°C to form the sodium salt. Finally
title product of the preceding Preparation (300 mg,
1.13 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred 1 hour at
0°C and 2 hours at room temperature, then diluted with
20 mL ethyl acetate, washed 1 x 15 mL water and 1 x
25 15 mL saturated NaCl, dried (MgSO_4), stripped and the
residue plug filtered on silica gel using 2:1
hexane:ether as eluant to yield 0.26 g of present title
product as a white solid; mp 51-53°C.

PREPARATION 19

30 4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)-
ethylthio]benzaldehyde

The title product of the preceding Preparation
(0.50 g, 1.34 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL of dry,
distilled THF and cooled to -78°C. n-Butyllithium

(0.7 mL of 2.1M in hexane, 1.47 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred 15 minutes at -78°C. DMF (0.30 mL, 3.9 mmol) was then added and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature, poured into 50 mL of water and extracted 3 x 60 mL ether. The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄) and stripped to 0.45 g of oil. The latter was plug filtered on silica gel using 2:1 hexane:ether as eluant to yield 0.25 g of present title product as a white solid; mp 74-76°C; tlc Rf 0.2 (2:1 hexane:ether).

PREPARATION 20

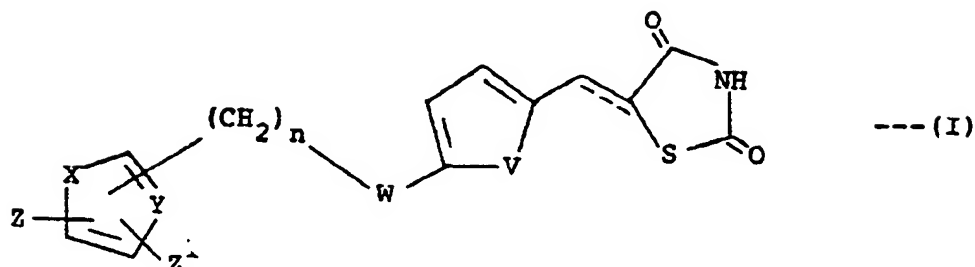
5-[4-(Methylamino)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

To acetic anhydride (1.2 g, 11.7 mmol) cooled to 0-5°C was added dropwise formic acid (0.663 g, 14.4 mmol) and the mixture then heated at 50-55°C for 2 hours, cooled to room temperature and diluted with 5 mL of THF. 5-(4-Aminobenzyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione (1.0 g, 4.5 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred overnight to form intermediate 5-[4-(formylamino)-benzyl]oxazolidine-2,4-dione. The volatiles were stripped in vacuo, the residue taken up in 5 mL THF, cooled to 0-5°C, and BH₃·(CH₃)₂S (5.75 mL of 2.0M in THF, 11.5 mmol) added with continued cooling (Note: gas evolution). The reaction mixture was then heated to reflux for 3 hours, cooled to room temperature, diluted with 10 mL CH₃OH, stirred 1 hour, cooled to 0-5°C, adjusted to pH 2 by bubbling dry HCl into the solution, reheated at reflux for 1 hour, cooled and finally stripped of solvent. The residue was taken up in 75 mL saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted 2 x 50 mL ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed 1 x 40 mL H₂O and 1 x 40 mL saturated NaCl, dried (Na₂SO₄) and stripped to yield 1.4 g of present title product as an oil; tlc Rf 0.7 (ethyl acetate).

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

~~CLAIMS~~

1. A compound of the formula



10 wherein the dotted line represents a bond or no bond;

V is -CH=CH-, -N=CH-, -CH=N-, S, O or NR;

W is S, SO, SO₂, SO₂NR¹, NR¹SO₂, CONR¹ or NR¹CO;

15 X is S, O, NR², -CH=N- or -N=CH;

Y is CH or N;

20 Z is hydrogen, (C₁-C₇)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl or phenyl mono- or disubstituted with the same or different groups which are (C₁-C₃)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₃)alkoxy, fluoro, chloro or bromo;

Z¹ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)alkyl;

25 R, R¹ and R² are each independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

a pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof when the compound contains a basic nitrogen.

30 2. A compound of claim 1 wherein the dotted line represents no bond, V is -CH=CH- and n is 1 or 2.

3. A compound of claim 2 wherein n is 1, W is CONR¹, X is O and Y is N forming an oxazol-4-yl group.

4. A compound of claim 2 wherein n is 1, W is NR¹CO, X is O and Y is N forming an oxazol-4-yl group.

5. A compound of claim 2 wherein n is 2, W is S or SO₂, X is O and Y is N forming an oxazol-4-yl group.

6. A compound of claim 3, 4 or 5 wherein Z is 2-phenyl and Z¹ is 5-methyl.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a hyperglycemic mammal which comprises a blood glucose lowering amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a hypercholesterolemic mammal which comprises a blood cholesterol lowering amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. Phenyl(or heterocyclyl)-methylene(or methylidyne)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione derivatives substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

10. A process for preparing phenyl(or heterocyclyl)-methylene(or methylidyne)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione derivatives substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

11. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of hypoglycemia or hyperlipidemia in a patient requiring said treatment or prophylaxis, which method comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or 9, or of a composition according to claim 7 or claim 8.

DATED this SIXTH day of MARCH 1989

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